

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 011711Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 505

S E C R E T SANTIAGO 5975

EXDIS

EO 11652: XGDS1

TAGS: PFOR, US, CI

SUBJ: NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE RE CHILE

REF: STATE 213327

1. ON LEARNING, SEPT 27, OF NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE FEATURING PURPORTED "REBUKE" BY SECRETARY, I THOUGHT IT DESIRABLE TO FURNISH TO GOC EXACT TEXT OF ARTICLE, IN ORDER TO AVOID ADDITIONAL SPECULATION. ACCORDINGLY, WE PASSED COPY OF TEXT TO OFFICE O JUNTA PRESS SPOKESMAN FEDERICO WILLOUGHBY. CHILEAN PRESS HAS NOT TO THIS POINT MENTIONED MATTER.

2. ON PRESIDENT PINOCHET'S RETURN FROM TRIP TO SOUTH, WILLOUGHBY LET US KNOW SEPT 30 THAT HE WOULD BE BRIEFING PRESIDENT ON SUBJECT. I ASKED WILLOUGHBY TO EXPRESS REGRET CONCERNING ANY EMBARRASSMENT CAUSED BY THE ARTICLE; NOTING THAT THE SECRETARY HAD LET IT BE KNOWN HE THOUGHT LEAKS OF THIS CHARACTER WERE DISGRACEFUL -- A SENTIMENT WITH WHICH I FULLY AGREE; AND ASKING THAT MY PERSONAL REGRETS BE EXPRESSED TO ALL CONCERNED, ESPECIALLY GENERAL BONILLA, WHOSE NAME WAS ALSO MENTIONED IN THE STORY.

3. I FURTHER STATED THAT I HAD ESTABLISHED TO MY SATISFACTION THAT THE STORY DID NOT EMANATE FROM THIS EMBASSY AND THAT I HOPED THE MATTER WOULD NOW PASS

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WITHOUT FURTHER PUBLIC NOTICE.

4. I THEN ASKED WILLOUGHBY TO REITERATE TO PRESIDENT PINOCHET MY ASSURANCE THAT US GOVERNMENT POLICY OF COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE TO CHILE CONTINUES; THAT DIFFICULTIES HAVE BEEN CREATED BY CRITICS OF CHILE IN OUR NEWS MEDIA AND IN CONGRESS, BUT THAT IN EXPLAINING THIS I HAD NOT INTERVENED IN CHILEAN AFFAIRS, MADE ANY PUBLIC STATEMENTS, OR AT ANY TIME CONDITIONED US MILITARY OR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO CHILE ON A CHANGE IN CHILEAN INTERNAL PRACTICES. I CONCLUDED BY EXPRESSING WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS MATTER PERSONALLY WITH ANY GOC OFFICIAL AT THEIR DISCRETION.

5. IN EVENING, WILLOUGHBY TELEPHONED ME TO SAY THAT PRESIDENT HAD NOT PREVIOUSLY HEARD OF NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE; THAT HE APPRECIATED OUR SPIRIT OF COOPERATION IN INFORMING HIM AND OUR EXPLANATION OF OUR POSITION. PRESIDENT ASKED WILLOUGHBY TO TELL ME THAT HE IS A VERY FRANK PERSON; IF HE HAS ANY PROBLEMS WITH REGARD TO US POLICY OR TO ME, I WILL GET THEM FROM HIM BEFORE I RECEIVE THEM FROM ANYONE ELSE.

6. BARRING FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS, BELIEVE WE ARE NOW ADEQUATELY COVERED WITH GOC.
POPPER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, NEWS LEAKS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CollinP0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SANTIA05975
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740277-0564
From: SANTIAGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741083/aaaacste.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: STATE 213327
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CollinP0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 JUL 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <06 MAR 2003 by CollinP0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE RE CHILE
TAGS: PFOR, US, CI
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005